

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you all the 2017 Annual Report of the National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB), which outlines the research activities of the Institute and its effective function as a center for collaborative research in Japan over the last year. Given these important missions of the Institute, I recognize my strong responsibility to maintain the liberal and forward-looking atmosphere for research and discussion that NIBB has kept for many years, which I believe is a basis for these remarkable activities.

The winning of the 2016 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine by Dr. Yoshinori Ohsumi, who is a Professor Emeritus of NIBB, was effective in reminding the society and the government of the importance of basic research. The government apparently compromised the trend to reduce the fundamental budget for universities and inter-university research institute corporations in total, and I sincerely wish we would be finally at a turning point to the increase of support, which would be indispensable to recovery of the leading status of Japan in science.

NIBB will stride properly to open up and foster new research fields in biology. To this end, every person in NIBB should do his/her best in accomplishing good research, keeping high ethics and compliance. Good science, even in a basic research field, will eventually benefit human beings. The history of science tells us this is true. NIBB will work hard to be truly acknowledged as a remarkable institution by society.

Please find in this booklet a summary of the research, collaborative, educational, and international activities of NIBB in 2017. I would like to note that we welcomed several new colleagues in 2017, including one associate professor, five assistant professors, and five NIBB research fellows, while four colleagues transferred to other institutes.

I would like to congratulate Associate Professor Nobuyuki Shiina for winning the Astellas Award for the Best Biomedical Research, Mr. Takuya Norizuki for winning an Outstanding Poster Award from an academic society and Dr. Takashi Matsuda for winning the 22nd Nagakura Research Incentive Award, as detailed on page 7.

To establish NIBB as an international leading institute in the field of basic biology, we always welcome your suggestions, comments and queries concerning our activities, in addition to your warm support.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Masayuki Yamamoto". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the portrait.

Masayuki Yamamoto
Director General of NIBB
March 30, 2018